

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, lines 14-15 with the following marked-up paragraph:

Figs. 3-3A shows show a procedural diagram of the inventive method by means of three sets of code words of variable lengths;

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, lines 17-19 with the following marked-up paragraph:

Figs. 4-4A shows show a procedural diagram for illustrating the inventive method for reading a data stream which has been produced in accordance with Fig. 3 and 3A;

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 16-23 with the following marked-up paragraph.

Fig. Figures 3 and 3A illustrate~~[[s]]~~, by means of an example, the inventive method for writing code words of variable lengths. In the example, there are 15 code words of variable lengths 30 which are preferably divided up into a first set having 6 code words 1 to 6, into a second set also having 6 code words 7 to 12 and into a third set having the remaining 3 code words 13 to 15. As is shown in Fig. 3, code words 30 have variable lengths.

Please replace the paragraph on page 14, lines 5-15 with the following marked-up paragraph:

Firstly, the code words of the first set are written into the data stream in a step a), which results in a fragmentary data stream indicated by 31, in which the code words of the first set are written into a respective segment from left to right, as is indicated by arrows 48 which are to symbolize the direction of writing in the entire Fig. 3. Since the segment length is selected to be longer than the longest length of a code word of the first set, only one single attempt is needed for step a). In case the segments are shorter, more attempts may be required accordingly.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 14, line 35 and ending on page 15, line 18 with the following marked-up paragraph:

In contrast to the prior art, where the second part of code word No. 7 would have been written into the second segment, the second half of code word No. 7, i.e. 7 b), is stored for writing it into the data stream in a second attempt in accordance with a predetermined regulation, i.e. in accordance with an regulation which must also be known to the decoder. Fig. Figures 3 and 3A clearly ~~shows~~ show that in the second segment, there was still enough room between code word Nos. 2 and 8 for the final section of code word No. 7 to be entered. In case there had not been enough room, the third section of the code word would have been entered into segment No. 3. Thus, in Fig. Figures 3 and 3A, the predetermined regulation for entering code word No. 7 into the data stream consists in proceeding by one segment in each case. Of course, one may also proceed by two segments or by three or more, such that, as a consequence, the second segment 7 b) could then be written, instead of the second segment, into the third, into the fifth in the next attempt, etc. The order of segments which is used to accommodate the second part of section 7 somewhere is arbitrary. However, it must be transparent to the decoder so that the re-sorted data stream can be re-read.

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, lines 1-24 with the following marked-up paragraph:

The first attempt in step c) was successful only in that the first section of code word No. 15 was entered, resulting in a fragmentary data stream 34. Code words 13, 14 and the second section of code word 15, i.e. 15 b) are stored for being accommodated in the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth attempts, wherein the second section 15b could be accommodated in the fourth segment in the second attempt (data stream 35), wherein nothing could be accommodated in the third attempt, wherein the starting section of code word 14 could be accommodated in the fourth attempt (data stream 36), wherein the final section of code word 14, i.e. 14b could be accommodated in the fifth attempt (data stream 37) and wherein, finally, the first code word of the third set could be entered in the sixth segment in the sixth and final attempt, which results in the error-robust data stream 38 for the example illustrated here. The method described using Fig. Figures 3

and 3A ensures ensure that the length of the error-robust data stream exactly corresponds to the sum of the lengths of the code words of variable lengths, which is self-evident for the purposes of entropy encoding for data reduction. However, the present invention is not limited to the error-robust data stream having the minimal length, since error robustness is not affected by any filler bits that may be present.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 16, line 26 to page 17, line 13 with the following marked-up paragraph:

When looking at the robust data stream shown in Fig. 3A, it can be seen that the start of code word No. 8, i.e. raster point 43, is entirely independent of the end of code word No. 7. Moreover, the start of code word No. 9, i.e. raster point 44, is entirely independent of the end of code word No. 8. Additionally, it should be noted that due to the opposite writing order, a data error in code word No. 1 in the first segment, for example, which leads to the fact that the incorrect code word is one bit shorter than the correct code word No. 1 due to the data error, does not lead to a destruction of the starting section of code word No. 7a, since the latter was written from right to left instead of from left to right. In case it had been written from left to right, a decoder would take the remaining bit from the initially correct code word No. 1 as the starting bit of code word No. 7, which would result in a sequence error from 1 to 7. However, this sequence error would not propagate to 8, since code word No. 8, again, is entirely independent of code word No. 7, since the writing order was chosen to be from right to left. In case the writing order of code word No. 8 is equal to the writing order of the code words of the first set, the error would not propagate from 7 to 8 either, since code word No. 8 would be written adjacent to code word No. 2 before the second part 7b due to the assignment rule and is, therefore, not influenced by an incorrect section 7b.

Please replace the paragraph on page 17, lines 15-26 with the following marked-up paragraph:

By means of an appropriate example, Fig. Figures 4 and 4A ~~show~~ shows the operation of the apparatus for reading the error-robust data stream 38. Initially, the code words of the first set are extracted from the error-robust data stream in step a). For this purpose, the inventive apparatus, which may be coupled to a Huffman decoder, reads the code

word of the first set starting from the first raster point 41, reads code word No. 2 of the first set starting from the second raster point 42, etc., until all code words 1 to 6 of the first set have been read in. It is self-evident that the apparatus for reading the data stream selects the same direction as has been used by the apparatus for producing.

Please replace the paragraph on page 19, lines 4-32 with the following marked-up paragraph:

In order to once again underline the advantages and/or the operation of the present invention, reference is made to the error-robust data stream No. 38 of Figure 3A. When looking at the first segment between the raster points 41 and 42, it can be seen that code word No. 1 is written from left to right, starting from the first raster point 41, as is clearly indicated by the arrow drawn underneath. The first part of code word No. 7, i.e. 7a, however, is written from right to left, starting from the second raster point 42. If both code words No. 1 and No. 7 or 7a were written into the data stream only from left to right, the start of code word 7 or the starting point of the starting section 7a of code word 7 would depend on the end of code word 1. Therefore, a transmission error in code word 1 would almost inevitably also lead to a sequence error in code word 7. However, if code word 7 is written in the opposite direction of writing, starting from the second raster point 42, in accordance with the invention, the starting point of code word 7 or of starting section 7a of code word 7 no longer depends on code word 1 but is determined by the raster or raster point 42. A decoder will always know this starting point, which is why an error in code word 1 will not lead to an error in code word 7. It can be seen from the error-robust data stream 38 of Figure 3A that the first section 7a and the second section 7b of code word No. 7 are both written in the same direction of writing. However, this is not compulsory. Of course, the second section 7b of code word 7 may also be written from left to right and would then start at the end of the second code word No. 2.